window into two lights, as in the tower of St. Benet's, Cambridge, and the church of Earl's Barton, Northamptonshire.

Of the domestic architecture of the Anglo-Saxons I need say nothing. Their houses were for the most part rude, and their requirements simple. The chief and his "hearthmen," or "hearth companions," as they were expressively termed, sat by the fire at which their meat was cooked, and shared the same sleeping apartment. They had able artizans nevertheless, good workers in iron and the other metals especially, and were altogether much more advanced as a people when they were overcome than is usually thought. Their descendants have been manfully fighting their way upwards in their own country ever since, and have fought a fight for the world at the same time.

But I must conclude, or I shall weary you.

Believe me with equal respect and regard,

Sincerely yours,

Reggio.

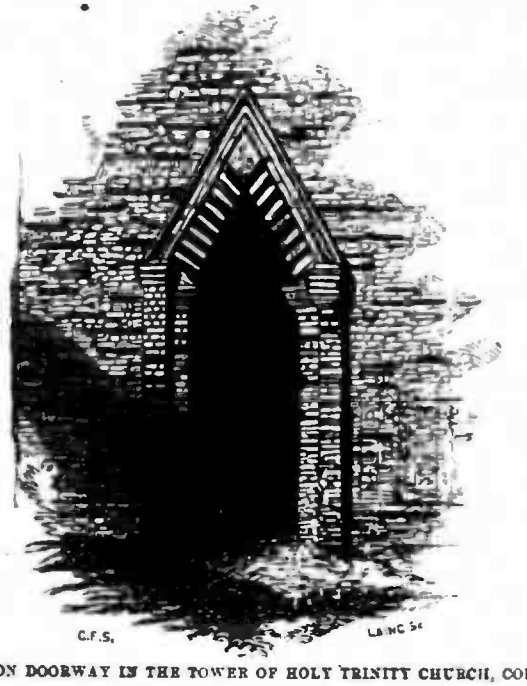

Fig. 22.—SAXON DOORWAY IN THE TOWER OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, COLCHESTER.

THE HOUSES AND SHOPS OF OLD LONDON.*

The sketches given in connection with our last paper are almost the only pictorial records we have of London previous to the publication of Agas's bird's-eye view of London in the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1558—1603). This scanty supply of information is the more to be regretted when we consider how few specimens of the street architecture of London remain which can, at the present time, be recognised as belonging to the period to which we have alluded. After several years' careful examination of London antiquities, so far as we have seen, the house in Tothill-street, Westminster, (No. 7), is, with the exception of Gerrard's Hall, the oldest fabric for commercial purposes which exists in a tangible shape at present. No doubt there are portions of buildings of an equally old date remaining; but these have been almost as much changed for their greater convenience and preservation as the knife of the sailor, which had been twice rebladed, and once treated with a new handle. The Cock at Westminster is composed in a similar style of massive Gothic timber-work to the example, No. 6, which has for some years been demolished. Respecting the ancient hostelry, there is a tradition that it was used as a lodging and pay house by the workmen engaged in the erection of Henry VII.'s Chapel at Westminster Abbey. This inn was old, even in the time of Stowe, and in further corroboration of the above tradition, some carvings of considerable antiquity and of much beauty of design and execution are still preserved inside the house, which are said to have been the work of artists employed at Henry VII.'s Chapel. The sign of the house (the Cock) has, no doubt, been intended originally as the emblem of St. Peter, the patron saint of Westminster Abbey. It is also stated that the first stage-coach which ran from London started from this place. The present exterior appearance is very picturesque, although plastered and painted. Several steps descend into the interior, which is built in a substantial manner, with huge beams of chesnut, as shown in engraving No. 8.

It has been mentioned by several (amongst others, by Saunders, in Charles Knight's "London"), that a considerable portion of the Tabbard Inn, in the Borough, is of the time of Chaucer, and was probably the identical hall in which were assembled the pilgrims so graphically described by the great poet. We are sorry to be obliged to differ from this opinion, which is so interesting in associations, for, after a careful examination of the Tabbard, the writer is led to think that there is no portion of the present building older than the time of James I.

Smith, in his "Antiquities of London and Westminster," says: "The instances of early dates on buildings in London are very rare: I have only met with two, those of 1595 and 1599, the former on the bracket of a house on the east side of Gray's-inn-lane" (see our engravings, Nos. 17 and 18), "the latter across the back beam of a house in Duke-street, West Smithfield (No. 6).* It must not be concealed that a date of 1430 is to be seen on the front of the White Hart, Bishopsgate-street."

The houses lining the streets of London previous to the reign of James I. appear not to have been remarkable for the extent of their carving or decoration, but were probably intended more for use than ornament. The circumstance that the houses built opposite the cross in Cheapside were looked upon at the time of their erection with wonder for their richness and beauty, together with the *existing drawings*, leads us to suppose that few domestic buildings existing in London at that time were at all to be compared with those of Coventry, Chester, &c.

Norden states, with regard to domestic architecture, that till late in the reign of Henry VIII. there were few high buildings, and fewer of stone, in the metropolis, or in England, excepting the palaces of the first nobility, cathedrals and parish churches, and the greater monasteries: the rest were mostly mud wall tenements of the cottagers, lesser free-traders, and villagers. The timber and lath buildings of cities and towns were houses erected with strong oaken posts interlaced with bricks and mortar, and which, like the examples in Tothill-street and Duke-street, would have stood several hundred years, unless purposely removed or destroyed by fire.

Houses in former times, before they were erected, were framed ready; that is to say, that while their foundations were being dug in one place, the timbers were being framed in another. In the time of Edward III. his exchequer was in a building called Cornet's Tower, which must have stood about the west end of the Poultry. This tower afterwards came into the possession of Buckle, or, as Stowe calls him, "one Buckle." This worthy citizen, who was of the Grocers' Company, considering a shop of more use than the ancient tower, resolved to pull it down, and erect a more fashionable edifice. During the demolition he was killed by the falling of a beam, and his widow shortly afterwards married, and her second husband set up the frame of timber which had been commenced by his predecessor.

Non such-house (16), which formerly stood on Old London-bridge, was brought from Holland, and was so called because it was entirely constructed of wood, brought over in pieces from Holland, and erected in this place, with wooden pegs only. This remarkable edifice stood on the seventh and eighth arches of Old London-bridge from the Southwark end. On the London side of the bridge the Nonesuch-house was partly joined to numerous small wooden dwellings, of about 27 feet in depth, which hung over the parapet on each side, leaving, however, a clear space of 20 feet in the centre: over all these its carved gables, cupolas, and gilded vanes majestically towered. Two sun-dials, declining east and west, crowned the top on the south side, on the former of which was painted the old and appropriate admonition, "*Time and tide wait for no man.*" The southern front shown in the engraving, was unconnected with any building, and must have had an excellent effect, and presented the appearance of a large building projecting over the bridge on either side. The whole of the front was ornamented with a profusion of transom-casement windows, with carved wooden galleries before them; and richly sculptured wooden panels and gilded columns were to be found in every part of it. In the centre was an arch of the width of the drawbridge, leading over the bridge; and above it on the south side were carved the arms of St. George, and those of Elizabeth, France, and England, quarterly. From this circumstance, and from a building answering the description of Nonesuch-house being mentioned in a document of the date 1585, it is supposed that this structure was erected during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Many of the old houses near the Southwark end of London-bridge (13) were also brought from Holland.

Although the houses of Old London, up to the period at present under notice, would appear, with a few exceptions such as Nonesuch-house, to have been only plain and substantial, yet we learn from various accounts, that the interiors were greatly adorned with tapestry, and leather hangings, richly gilt and ornamented. Turkey and Persian carpets are seen in paintings of this period, covering the tables of the rich and middling classes of the community: the floors were still strewed and matted with rushes, although the ceilings were richly decorated. Stephen Perlin, a French physician, who visited England in the time of Edward VI. says, "The English make great use of tapestries and of painted linens, which are well done, and on which are many magnificent roses, embellished fleurs de lis and lions, for you can enter but few houses where you do not find these tapestries." In the time of Queen Elizabeth ornaments of china for domestic purposes had been brought from Italy, but shortly after her death (about 1631) they became regular matters of importation by the East India ships.

* See p. 343, *ante*.

* This date was only on a portion of the house, and was probably added some time after the buildings were erected.

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